NEWSLETTER

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CHAIR’S COLUMN
by
Professor Sarah Schindler
November 2020

Dear Colleagues,

It has been an eventful, difficult, and strange year since we last gathered together in person. On the bright side, Zoom has allowed us to attend talks and conferences we might not otherwise have been able to. For example, it was great to see a number of you at the 9th annual State and Local Government Works-in-Progress Conference, hosted virtually and with aplomb by Paul Diller at Willamette University College of Law. We gathered to discuss new ideas with leaders in our field as well as a number of new colleagues.

In light of recent events, it’s likely that interest in our field will continue to grow. State and local governments have been in the news a lot recently in the wake of COVID-19-related lockdowns, mask mandates, and limits on evictions. Because the AALS requires us to submit our panel ideas so early, we were unable to incorporate these topics directly into our primary panel for this year’s meeting. That said, we are co-sponsoring (with the Constitutional Law Section) a panel put on by the Section on Law in the Americas titled, “Responses to COVID-19 in the Americas: Questions of Federalism and Governance.” This panel will take place on Tuesday, January 5 from 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST.

We do, however, have a great primary program lined up for our 2021 AALS Annual Conference. Our panel is titled “State and Local Government Law and Environmental Sustainability.” It will focus attention on state and local governments and explore specific ways that they are (and are not) tackling environmental sustainability. It will also consider the larger legal principles of law, culture, and economics underlying these efforts. Our panel is jointly sponsored with the Section on Natural Resources and Energy Law, and it is co-sponsored by the Sections on Environmental Law and Agricultural and Food Law. We have a great range of panelists, including a mix of senior and very junior folks:

Alyse Bertenthal, Wake Forest School of Law
Sara Bronin, University of Connecticut School of Law
Jennifer L. Harder, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
Robin Kundis Craig, University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law
Michael Lewyn, Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
Michele Okoh, Duke University School of Law
Keith Rizzardi, St. Thomas University School of Law
Erin Ryan, Florida State University College of Law
Priyanka Sundareshan, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law
Evan Zoldan, University of Toledo College of Law
The panel is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2021 from 2:45pm to 5:30pm EST. Due to the online nature of the conference, we will sadly not have our annual breakfast, which is where we typically conduct section business and elect our new board. Thus, we will need to elect our new board in advance of the meeting. Look for an email from me regarding this election.

I look forward to seeing you all soon, at least online. Here’s hoping that we are together again in person in the near(ish) future.

Best,
Sarah Schindler
Edward S. Godfrey Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research
University of Maine School of Law
University of Denver Sturm College of Law (beginning Jan. 2021)
Bibliography of Section Member Law Review Publications
(2019-2020)
by
Professor J. Clark Kelso
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

Please forward any errors or omissions to ckelso@pacific.edu

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